

Superintendent's Report  
Parks and Seattle Center Committee  
April 21, 2011

Queen Anne Community Center. There is an interest in the Queen Anne neighborhood to raise funds to add hours for Community Center operations. The community is working with the Associated Recreation Council to be their fiscal agent. We are working through the Queen Anne Community Center Advisory Council. We are accepting donations through the CLASS system. The Business Service Center set up a point-of-sale button to receive donations at the community center front desk, and a local business - Video Isle on Queen Anne Avenue is accepting donations, which we pick up and deposit. After three weeks of fundraising, the community has raised almost \$900. To reach their desired goal, they need to raise \$45,000.

Youth basketball. The Yesler Community Center's basketball coach, Greg Frederickson, has secured a \$2,000 donation from the Seattle Foundation for the youth basketball program. The donation will go toward the purchase of supplies, uniforms, and scholarships for youth registration fees.

Wading pools. Parks has developed a plan to obtain community support to expand funding for wading pool operations. The plan includes a "paired" opportunity where a community with greater fund raising abilities would pay for two days of operation – one for their wading pool and one for a wading pool selected by the department. This is an example of putting Race & Social Justice priorities into practice.

Paper Reduction Success. In 2010, paper use by City departments was down a jaw-dropped 36% over 2005 levels. The PaperCuts program initiated in 2005 has proved remarkably successful. The original effort to reduce paper use by City employees set a 30% reduction goal by 2006. While we didn't achieve the goal within the expected timeframe, City employees have significantly reduced overall paper use. In 2009, when our paper reduction levels were at 29%, we saved \$44,000. (2010 savings figures are not yet available.) The program was co-lead by Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle Public Utilities. The PaperCuts interdepartmental team was disbanded in 2009, but employees have clearly internalized the message continue find ways to use less paper.

Cost savings. Park District Staff increased efforts to tackle rising fuel costs. Examples include configuring routes for efficient fuel consumption and closer monitoring of mileage. District review of sanican placement and expenses may provide another arena for savings.

Tent City 3. During the three months that Tent City 3 was located at Maple Leaf Lutheran Church parking lot, Meadowbrook Community Center provided 330 showers in the Family Changing Rooms for Tent City residents.

Clean & Green Seattle. On Feb. 12, 2011, we held the 120<sup>th</sup> Clean & Green Seattle event in the Uptown/Lower Queen Anne neighborhoods. Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith led more than 60 volunteers as they removed invasive plants, spread mulch and picked up litter along Uptown neighborhood streets. Volunteers removed more than 1,800 pounds of debris and litter.

Magnuson Park Special Event Drawing. We received a total of 9 applications — 4 for first quarter, 2 for second, 1 for 3rd, and 2 for 4th quarter. Diana Kincaid, Park Commissioner was conducted the drawing. The winners were Seattle Tilth, NW Craft Alliance, Friends of the Library and the Pancreatic Cancer Walk.

Belltown Community Center. More than 65 people attended the first public meeting to discuss converting a former fitness gym in Belltown into the Belltown Community Center. Key priorities from the community include: 24-hour-a-day SPD desk space, free town hall meetings, Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates, possible martial arts classes for all ages, adult programs and classes, evening dances/events, open 7 days/week all day, creation of a community board that works in tandem with the operator, regular operator evaluations by the City and community board and an operator who understands and is engaged with the neighborhood.

Basketball participation. The Citywide Youth Basketball Program has concluded its youth basketball regular season. More than 260 teams were involved in ages 10-17, which equates to approximately 2,900 players. They played more than 1,500 games at 24 community centers between January and March. In addition, more than 520 coaches volunteered their time.

Atlantic City Nursery Update. Seattle Parks and Recreation's Atlantic City Nursery was closed January 2010. This closure created an opportunity for the neighborhood to help shape the future use of this park property. In November, Christopher Williams endorsed the Use Plan, proposed by the Board of Park Commissioners that would improve safety and provide for public access for the site. In February 2011, Parks issued a Request for Proposal for the development and long-term operation and management of a community garden at the Atlantic City Nursery site. We received one proposal that was reviewed by a Parks & Recreation panel, which included a representative from the Park Board and from Council President Richard Conlin's Office. A recommendation from the panel will be submitted to Christopher Williams soon. We hope to have legislation proposing a 5-year agreement approved by the City Council in the next few months.

Central Waterfront Committee Update. The February 17 Central Waterfront kick-off event at the Seattle Aquarium was a huge success. More than 1,000 people attended to engage in the waterfront vision and hear the project team present their approach to the design. The City has received nearly 2,000 responses from the Seattle public on the future vision and potential uses of the new waterfront. A summary of the feedback can be found on the project's website at [www.waterfrontseattle.org](http://www.waterfrontseattle.org). This information will be used by the project team to better understand public preferences for the waterfront. On May 19 at the Bell Harbor Conference Center, James Corner and the project team will present initial design directions for the waterfront (6:30 p.m. at the Bell Harbor Conference Center). The waterfront framework plan and concept design will be completed in the Fall of 2012.

Community Center Action Team update. The Community Center Advisory Team (CCAT) is moving into the portion of their work where they will consider various options for operating our community centers and for charging for activities and rentals. An options matrix was distributed to staff and CCAT on April 7. In order to give CCAT adequate time to carefully consider the options, and perhaps to come up with some additional ones, the Department has requested, and Council has graciously granted, a one-month extension on the due date for the SLI response. This will mean that we postpone the general public meetings until mid-June, which will give CCAT more time to consider how they will invite the public to participate and to plan the format for the meetings.

Celebrate Urban Nature. A recent event at Magnuson Park to celebrate urban nature was a big success. We had great advance press coverage, and more than 500 people attended; the gymnasium was packed to the gills, and feedback was very positive, indicating that everyone had a great time and learned a lot too! The colorful flags were put back up again for a couple of hours last week while the Magnuson

Children's Garden hosted an impromptu filming of the Gardening with Ciscoe TV show, which will be shown multiple times over the next few weeks!

Volunteer Underwater Cleanup. Al Schumer and volunteers from the NW Diving Institute recently hauled up 750 pounds of underwater trash and debris from Golden Gardens and Shilshole Marina.

Beacon Mountain. Exciting developments continue to take center stage at Jefferson Park. The community-initiated Beacon Mountain project, funded in part by the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy, is intended to be an ecologically oriented playscape with a climbable collection of slopes and boulders featuring on-grade slides. A spray park will figure prominently as part of water exploration zone. This project will go out to bid by April 2011, with construction taking place in summer/fall 2011. In partnership with Seattle City Light, Parks will combine this project with construction of picnic shelters that have solar panels as rooftops. The solar energy would go into Seattle City Light's electric grid. As with all grid-tied energy sources, the electrons will be used by the nearest load (meaning it will help power lights at the park, and maybe even at the community center). Essentially, this means less energy from traditional sources needs to be brought in to meet the local demand.

Tree Removal at Washington Park Arboretum - New Zealand Focal Forest. Design of the New Zealand Focal Forest is complete. The plants are currently being propagated from seed of a known provenance. These plants will reach maturity for planting in the fall of 2012; therefore, construction will start in the summer of 2012. In preparation for this project, a number of trees will be removed over the next year and a half and will be replaced at a rate far greater than 2:1. A public meeting will be scheduled in the spring of 2011 to give an update on the implementation of the Arboretum Master Plan, which highlights this project.

Building 27 Award. Arena Sports received an award from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for their renovation of Building 27. The official announcement from SHPO can be accessed at: <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/HistoricSites/SHPOAwardsCurrent.htm>. The award ceremony will be held May 3 at 3 p.m. in the Capitol Dome Room of the Legislative Building.

Seafair at Othello Park. The Othello Park Alliance has received confirmation that its August 21 festival in Othello Park has been accepted as an official Seafair event. The Othello Park International Music and Arts Festival has partnered with the Rainier Valley Heritage Parade, and will be marketed by SeaFair as the Rainier Valley Culture Festival Weekend. This will appear in all SeaFair festival marketing and should significantly increase the awareness and visibility of this event. This is the fourth year for this annual festival at Othello Park.

Mounger Pool Registration. Registration for our only heated outdoor, seasonal pool began on April 5 at noon. In the first 24 hours, revenue for swimming classes at Mounger had exceeded \$141,000. (This compares to registration in 2010 at \$115,000 in the first 24 hours). So far this year, Mounger Pool has already surpassed its total group lesson revenue from 2010 by approximately \$5,000. Mounger Pool has proven yet again to be in high demand. All 54 group swimming lesson classes are full with waitlists.

Sustainable Food and Youth. Our youth development programs in 2010 focused on sustainable food programs by teaching kids how to grow, harvest and cook their own food. In 2010, 1,400 youth ages 5-10 engaged in sustainable food system focused programs; Parks provided 1,674 hours of program service at 32 sites; 100 percent of the participants experienced an average of 36% increase in life skills.

Sandel Playground. The construction fence was removed in mid-April, and the new playground was re-opened to the public. The site has been full of kids using the new equipment ever since. The playground renovation was included in the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy.

Seattle Public Theater. Staff prepared documents agreeing to extend the agreement with Performing/Visual Arts partner, Seattle Public Theater, at the Green Lake Bathhouse Theater until June 30, 2016.

Magnuson Park Wetlands. Phase III of wetlands expansion will be funded by an EPA grant and a State RCO grant that will be matched with Pro Parks funding. The project focuses on extending the newly created wetlands across the swim beach road toward Lake Washington. Bidding is anticipated by the end of April. Construction will occur in the summer of 2011. Phase IV is in the early planning stages, and includes a proposal to restore 20 additional acres of wetlands and may make the connection between the newly built wetlands and Lake Washington. This connection is being termed “the lagoon.” WSDOT is considering this project as a candidate for a portion of the 520 mitigation funding. No other funding sources for implementation have been allocated.

Social Media Update. We currently have 19 Facebook pages with more than 7,000 friends, and we are adding new pages all the time. We expect to have three more pages by the end of May. We currently have more than 3,100 followers on our Twitter account, and the number grows every day – totaling more than 10,000 people connecting with Seattle Parks and Recreation via social media.

Upcoming Groundbreakings and Park Openings. Councilmember Bagshaw’s staff have been notified about all these event dates; we have not received specific confirmations yet.

- Hubbard Homestead Official Opening. The Mayor has accepted an invitation to speak at this event, which will be held on April 23 at 10 a.m.
- Myrtle Reservoir. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, at 10 a.m. The Mayor is unable to attend this event.
- Summit Slope. The event is scheduled for Sunday, May 1, at 12 noon. The Mayor is unable to attend this event.